Scientists Support Dedicated At-Risk Species Funding

The undersigned natural resource scientists and managers working in partnership with state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies stand in support of dedicated funding for the conservation of America's at-risk fish and wildlife. We urge Congress to take up measures that work towards this goal, including the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

America harbors a remarkable array of fish and wildlife species, many of which face increased risk of extinction due to threats such as habitat alteration, invasive species, disease, and other problems exacerbated by the impacts of a changing climate. Over one third of these species are in need of immediate conservation action from these human-induced threats, including up to 40 percent of freshwater fish species, 42 percent of amphibian species, and 18 percent of bat species. On a global scale, a recent United Nations report detailed over 1 million species at risk of extinction, with approximately 680 vertebrate species already having gone extinct since the 1500s.

State fish and wildlife agencies operating on the front lines of this crisis have spent the past several years working to identify at-risk species and define appropriate conservation strategies to address their declines through the creation of State Wildlife Action Plans. Unfortunately, since first mandated by Congress nearly two decades ago, State Wildlife Action Plans have remained chronically underfunded. Today, nearly 12,000 species are in need of urgent action in order to avoid costly scenarios such as Endangered Species Act listing.

Sufficient, dedicated funding for Wildlife Action Plans would provide states and tribes with the resources and certainty needed to plan long-term conservation and monitoring. This problem is exacerbated in tribal agencies, where tribal professionals have no reliable funding mechanism to work with partners on at-risk species conservation or the creation of action plans.

The passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would dramatically change this dynamic by providing state and tribal agencies with the funding needed to promote voluntary and cost-effective on-the-ground conservation work. By providing states, tribes and partner biologists funds to conserve these species today, we can avoid Endangered Species Act listings tomorrow.

Sincerely,

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Joshua Wright - College Student - Texas A&M Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Judd Curtis - Associate Research Scientist - Texas A&M University

Judy Brupbacher - Educator

Julia York - PhD Candidate - University of Texas at Austin

Kaitlin Will - Environmental Scientist - Member, The Wildlife Society

Kameryn Strickland – Student - SFA student chapter of The Wildlife Society

Kasey Clarke - Environmental Scientist - The Wildlife Society Member

Kelcee Smith - PhD Candidate - Louisiana State University

Kelly Conrad Simon - Urban Wildlife Biologist, Natural Resource Specialist - Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

Ken Kurzawski - Fisheries Program Manager - American Fisheries Society Fisheries Administration Section

Kyle Brunson - Natural Resources Specialist - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Landon Robert Schofield - Range and Wildlife Biologist - East Foundation

Lee Ann Linam - Science teacher - One Day Academy

Lee Marlowe - Sustainable Landscape Ecologist - Texas Society for Ecological Restoration & Native Plant Society of Texas

Linda S Campbell - Wildlife biologist - Texas Parks and Wildlife (retired)

Madilyn Jarman - Graduate Student

Mallory Eastland - Research Associate - Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Mandy Corso Krause - Ranch Consultant - Parker Creek Ranch

Marjorie Dixon - PhD Candidate - University of Texas at Austin

Mark C Wallace - Professor - Texas Tech University

Marsha G Williams - Research Associate III - The University of Texas at Tyler

Marsha May - Adjunct Biology Professor - Temple College

Mary O'Hara - Certified TX Master Naturalist - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Matt Wagner - Land and Wildlife Consultant, Adjunct Faculty - Texas A&M, Texas State University,

Texan by Nature, Weston Ranch

Matthew Hewitt - Sul Ross State University

Matthew Johnson - Natural Resources Team Lead - Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society

Matthew Parker - Master's Candidate - Texas State University

Matthew Ward - Fishery Biologist - Lochow Ranch Pond and Lake Management

Michael D Panasci - Graduate Student - Texas Tech University

Michelle Haggerty - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Member, Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Molly Moroz - Graduate Research Assistant - University of Texas at Austin

Neal Wilkins - President & CEO - East Foundation

Nicholas Fisher - Wildlife Services Technician - Plateau Land and Wildlife Management

Nicholas Ivers - PhD Student - University of Texas at Austin

Olivia Schmidt - Outreach Specialist - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Philip Queller - PhD Student - University of Texas at Austin

Rachael L. Connally - Associate Wildlife Biologist - Texas A&M University

Rachel Richter Urban - Wildlife Biologist - Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Ray C. Telfair II, Ph.D. - Certified Wildlife Biologist - The Wildlife Society

Rebecca A. Svoboda - District Conservationist - USDA

Reid Casey – undergraduate student

Richard Heilbrun - Wildlife Biologist - Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Romey Swanson - Director of Conservation Strategies - Audubon Texas

Ross Couvillon - Biology Professor - Member, Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Roy Leslie- Managing Partner - Leslie Ranch

Russell Lewis Martin Jr - Wildlife Diversity (Nongame) Biologist/NRS IV - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Sam Kieschnick - CitSci Association

Samantha Kahl - Assistant Professor of Natural Resource Management - Texas Tech University

Sara Miller - Wildife Biologist - Member, The Wildlife Society

SaraBeth Boggan – Student - Tarleton State University

Scott T. Walter - Senior Lecturer in Wildlife Biology - Texas State University

Selma Glasscock - Assistant Director - Welder Wildlife Foundation

Shane J. Kiefer - Certified Wildlife Biologist & Director of Ecological Services - Plateau Land & Wildlife Management

Shelby McCay - Project Coordinator - TAMU NRI

Sonia Elizabeth Duran - Wildlife Biologist- Member, The Wildlife Society

Spencer R Keyser - Graduate Student - University of Texas at Austin

Stennie Meadours - Retired Environmental Emergency Response Manager - Birder and environmental advocate

Stephanie Parker - Graduate Research Assistant - Texas A&M University

T. Wayne Schwertner - Associate Professor and Department Head - Tarleton State University

Tam H. Tran - Environmental scientist - Freese & Nichols

Tania Homayoun - Natural Resources Specialist - Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Tara Korzekwa - Biology Lecturer - University

Thomas J Lang - Past-President - AFS Fish Habitat Section

Thomas L. Marshall - NSF Graduate Research Fellow - University of Texas at Austin

Thomas Wayne Schwertner - Associate Professor - Tarleton State University

Tiffany Leitner - Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Tio Kleberg – Director - East Foundation

Tony Blair - Certified Wildlife Biologist - TWS Member, Owner of wildlife consulting firm

Tyler Campbell - Chief Program Officer & Principal Scientist - East Foundation

William Bartush - Partnership Coordinator - American Bird Conservancy

William Rufus Stephens - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Member, The Wildlife Society

William Thompson – Student – Member, The Wildlife Society

Zoe Carroll - Graduate Research Assistant - Sul Ross State University

Utah

Allison Pease - Adjunct professor - Dept of Natural Resources Management, Texas Tech University Brianna Johnson - Graduate Researcher - Utah State University, UT Division of Wildlife Resources Chris Frauenhofer - Wildlife Biologist- State of Utah

Cole Bleke - Graduate Student - Utah State University

Doris Zemlicka - Wildlife Biologist - Retired USDA

Jackie Watson - Blue Ribbon Fisheries Biologist - Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Ronald B Kegerries III - Fisheries Biologist - Private Consulting

Scott Tolentino - Fisheries Biologist & project leader - Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Stephanie Landry - Graduate Research Assistant - Utah State University

Trina Hedrick - Regional Aquatics Manager - state wildlife agency

Vermont

Kent McFarland - Conservation biologist - Vermont Center for Ecostudies Amy Alfieri - Fish and Wildlife Scientist III - Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

Virginia

Carola A. Haas – Professor - Virginia Tech

Colin Chapman - Research Professor - George Washington University

Daniel P. Michaelson - Fisheries Biologist - VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries

Dr. Catherine Hulshof - Assistant Professor - Virginia Commonwealth University

Jason Hallacher - Asst Fisheries Biologist - VA Chapter American Fisheries Society

Joan Blankenship - Conservation Director Virginia BASS Nation - Virginia BASS Nation

John Copeland - Fisheries Biologist - Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

John Rogers Copeland - Fisheries Biologist 3 - American Fisheries Society

Katherine Hamedani - Natural Resource Specialist II - Virginia Tech

Sandra Schwartz - Former employee of the national biological survey

Washington

Bruce C. Thompson - Wildlife Scientist (Retired) - Past President (The Wildlife Society)

Ed Henry – Biologist – Member, American Fisheries Society

Ed Styskel - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Retired

Edward W Styskel - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Member, The Wildlife Society

Eleanor P. Gaines - Director - Oregon Biodiversity Information Center

Felipe Amezcua – Professor - EcoWB

Gail Olson – Member, The Wildlife Society

Gary J. Wiles - Wildlife Biologist - Retired

George R Carlson - Wildlife Biologist - Retired

Heidi Newsome - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Member, The Wildlife Society

Hope Rieden - Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Jesse Brunner - Associate Professor - Washington State University

John F. Lehmkuhl - Research Wildlife Biologist (retired) - USDA Forest Service

Kelsey King - Graduate student - Washington State University

Kevin White - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Whitetail Environmental, LLC

Laura Heironimus - Fish and Wildlife Biologist - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Leslie Parks - Wildlife science technician - Swinomish tribe

Lynda Hofmann - Fish and Wildlife Biologist - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Matt Betts – Professor - Oregon State University

Michael Saxton - Wildlife Biological Technician - Katmai National Park

Neala Kendall - Research Scientist - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Nikolas Novotny - Fisheries Biologist - American Fisheries Society

Patricia Townsend - Assistant Professor - University

Rebecca Windell - Graduate Research Assistant and PhD Student - University of Washington

Staci Amburgey - Postdoctoral researcher - University of Washington

Stefanie Bergh - Wildlife Biologist - Member of The Wildlife Society

Steve Desimone - Wildlife Ecologist - Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife

Susan Waters - Rare Species Ecologist

West Virginia

Susan Olcott - WV Project Leader for Monarch and Lepidoptera Conservation - WV Div Natural Resources

Frank Jernejcic - District Fishery Biologist - Retired

Wisconsin

Adrian P. Wydeven - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Wisconsin Green Fire, Timber Wolf Alliance

Benjamin Olsen - Wildlife Biologist - Member, The Wildlife Society

Bob Wright - Wildlife GIS Specialist - Minnesota IT Services

Bradley Ray - Fisheries Team Supervisor - Member, American Fisheries Society

Bruce R. Bacon - Wildlife Biologist - retired WI Dept. Natural Resources

Cassandra Graikowski - Tribal Historic Preservation Officer - Sokaogon Chippewa Tribe

Charles M. Pils - Wildlife Biologist-Wisconsin DNR (Retired)

Christopher D. Tyrrell - Research Curator & Dir. of Informatics - Milwaukee Public Museum

Daniel Robert Dessecker - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Retired

Darren M Ladwig - Wildlife Biologist - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Donald M. Waller - former Professor of Botany & Environmental Studies - University of Wisconsin - Madison

Elise Couillard - Science Communicator - Ducks Unlimited

Fred Strand - Wildlife Biologist - Private Consultant

Jonathan Gilbert - Director, Biological Services Division - Great Lakes Indian Fish and Willdife Commission

Karl Martin - Dean, Division of Extension - University of Wisconsin-Madison

Keith R. McCaffery - Natural Resource Scientist - Wis Dep Nat Resour (retired)

Mark Martin - Manager Goose Pond Sanctuary - Madison Audubon Society

Michael D. Samuel - Emeritus Professor - University of Wisconsin-Madison

Nathaniel LaHue DVM, MPVM – Member, The Wildlife Society

Nick Jaeckels - Water Resources Engineer

Ollie Torgerson - Executive Secretary - Midwest Assn. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Pat Conrad - Watershed Planner - Emmons & Olivier Resources

Ronald G. Eckstein - Wildlife Biologist (retired) - Wisconsin Chapter, The Wildlife Society

Rosalind Russell - Environmental Scientist - Emmons and Olivier Resources

Samantha Hauser - Postdoctoral Fellow - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Thomas M Hauge - Retired Wildlife Management Program Director - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Timothy Van Deelen - Professor of Wildlife Ecology - University of Wisconsin at Madison

Tom Howard - Certified Wildlife Biologist - Wisconsin Chapter TWS

William T Route - Ecologist (retired) - Certified wildlife biologist, The Wildlife Society

Wyoming

Embere Hall - Adjunct Assistant Professor - Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society Jeffrey Baldock - Graduate Research Assistant - Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Dr. Anna Chalfoun - Associate Professor - University of Wyoming

Robert P Lanka - Wildlife Biologist - Wyoming Game and Fish Department - Retired

Tony Mong - Wildlife Biologist - Wyoming Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Charles R. Neal – Ecologist - US Dept. of Interior (retired)

Dana Nelson - Nongame Biologist - Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Andrea Orabona - Nongame Bird Biologist - The Wildlife Society Central Mountains and Plains Section

James F. Wright - Wildlife Biologist – Member, The Wildlife Society

Gwyn McKee - President/Principal Biologist - Great Plains Wildlife Consulting, Inc.

Jennifer Feltner - PhD Candidate/Grad Student Researcher - University of Montana

David Gustine - Supervisory Wildlife Biologist - Grand Teton National Park, National Park Service